

The Nebraska Independent.

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NO. 13.

MUST DECLARE HIS POSITION

Mr. Bryan's Plan Clearly Defined.—President McKinley's Policy Uncertain.

The Chicago Record, editorially reviewing Mr. Bryan's speech of acceptance, calls attention to the difference between the wavering and unsettled policy of the McKinley administration and the plain clear cut statement of Mr. Bryan as to the policy he will pursue in dealing with the Philippines if he is elected. It says:

Mr. Bryan's speech delivered yesterday at Indianapolis in accepting the second nomination of his party for the presidency was a strong appeal to all who oppose the policy of the administration in respect to Porto Rico and the Philippines. The address opens with a few general paragraphs, in which the speaker alludes to the fact that the issue of 1896 is a contest between democracy on the one hand and plutocracy on the other, and charges that on the important issue of the day the republican party is dominated by those influences which constantly tend to elevate pecuniary considerations and ignore human rights, and that his opponent, "instead of meeting the issue boldly and submitting a clear and positive plan for dealing with the Philippine question," is "attempting to press economic questions upon the country to the exclusion of those which involve the very structure of our government." He proceeds: "They shall not be permitted to evade the stupendous and far-reaching issue which they have deliberately brought into the arena of politics."

Thus launched upon what he accepts as the paramount issue of the campaign, Mr. Bryan declares his intent to address to his position, promising to discuss the various questions coming by the platform of his party in his letter of acceptance.

Mr. Bryan presses upon his opponents the question, Why treat the Philippines differently from the Cubans? He takes up the various arguments for the retention of the Philippines and gives his answers to each. He quotes Admiral Dewey to the effect that the Philippines are more capable of self-government than the Cubans, but refuses "to rest the case upon the positive assessment of the Philippines, quoting Henry Clay's declaration that 'self-government is the natural government of man.' He adds:

"There are degrees in the art of self-government, but it is a reflection upon the Creator to deny the capacity of any people the capacity of self-government. Once admit that some people are capable of self-government and that others are not, and that the capable people have a right to seize upon and govern the incapable, and you make force—brute force—the only foundation of government and invite the reign of a despot. I am not willing to believe that an all-loving God created the Philippines and then left them for thousands of years helpless until the islands attracted the attention of European nations."

The portion of Mr. Bryan's speech in which he announces what he will do in respect to the Philippines if elected, will receive special attention. Mr. Bryan makes this distinct pledge:

"If elected, I shall convene congress in extraordinary session as soon as I am inaugurated and recommend an immediate declaration of the nation's purpose, first, to establish a stable form of government in the Philippine islands, just as we are now establishing a stable form of government in Cuba; second, to give independence to the Philippines, just as we have promised to give independence to the Cubans; third, to protect the Philippines from outside interference while they work out their destiny, just as we have protected the republics of Central and South America and are, by the Monroe doctrine, pledged to protect Cuba. A European protectorate often results in the exploitation of the ward by the guardian. An American protectorate gives to the nation protected the advantage of our strength without making it the victim of our greed. For three-quarters of a century the Monroe doctrine has been a shield to neighboring republics and yet it has imposed no pecuniary burden upon us."

Voters who are seeking light on the attitude of the two parties will do well to contrast this with Mr. McKinley's utterances on the same point in his speech of acceptance at Canton. Said Mr. McKinley:

"There must be no scuttling policy. We will fulfill in the Philippines the obligations imposed by the triumph of our arms, by treaty of peace, and by international law, by the nation's sense of honor, and more than all, by the rights, interests and conditions of the Philippines themselves. The Philippines are ours and American authority must be supreme throughout the archipelago."

Mr. Bryan's plan for the solution of the Philippines problem is specific; Mr. McKinley's general and unfortunately vague. The one says what he proposes to do, the other states a theory. But the substantial difference in their views need not for that reason be missed. Mr. Bryan if elected will undertake to give the Philippines self-government, withdrawing as speedily as possible from the islands and maintaining only such a protectorate as will restrain other powers from interfering. Mr. McKinley if elected may do any one of a number of things, but whatever course he does take will look to the permanent retention of the Philippines. Whether he proposes to retain them under martial law or as colonies or as a territory; by means of a local representative government or by authority of governors appointed from Washington, he does not say. But keep them in some way he will.

It will no longer do for the supporters of the policy of the administration to charge that the opposition has no program for the treatment of the Philippines. Its program is definite and is

now known to all. The time has come for a more definite statement of republican policy and its defense on its merits. After this speech and the evident democratic purpose to press the fight on these lines there can be no evasion of the issue.

Mr. Bryan, after having stated his belief that "if this nation surrenders its belief in the universal application of the principles of the Declaration of Independence it will lose the prestige and influence which it has enjoyed among the nations as an exponent of popular government," closes with a fine appeal for the continued moral supremacy of the republic. We can only add that all Americans of whatever view of the great question discussed, should read the notable speech. It is an important contribution to a great discussion.

A FEW FIGURES.

From September 30, 1879, to June 30, 1879, excess exports and imports were	
Excess Imports—	
Merchandise	\$1,598,803,055
Excess Exports—	
Gold	\$224,851,934
Silver	116,891,434
	\$1,041,742,368
Net excess of imp'ts.—	\$557,050,687
From June 30, 1879, to June 30, 1899:	
Excess Exports—	
Merchandise	\$3,720,842,359
Silver	419,574,479
	\$4,140,416,838
Excess Imports—	
Gold	\$10,282,354
Consolidating the two periods, we have:	
Excess Exports—	
Merchandise	\$2,122,039,104
Gold	914,568,580
Silver	536,465,913
	\$3,573,073,597

During this period (1879 to 1899) we have managed to become indebted to foreigners in the sum of about \$5,000,000,000 at least. And we have shipped out \$3,573,073,597 in gold, silver and merchandise more than we have shipped in.

It is the ultimate it is very evident that we received nothing of value for the five billions of debt we owe the foreigners, because if we received anything it would show as imports of merchandise, silver and gold.

Our foreign indebtedness began to grow about 1890, and up to 1873 we had over half a billion dollars in excess imports to show for it. But since 1873 the debt has grown constantly and now we find the principal unpaid and over three and one-half billion dollars of merchandise, gold and silver "gone to the dogs."

Maybe it is an evidence of prosperity for us to owe the other fellow five billions and give him three and a half billions more to keep him good-humored; but there is no other people on earth who could stand it and not go flat broke.

There are degrees in the art of self-government, but it is a reflection upon the Creator to deny the capacity of any people the capacity of self-government. Once admit that some people are capable of self-government and that others are not, and that the capable people have a right to seize upon and govern the incapable, and you make force—brute force—the only foundation of government and invite the reign of a despot. I am not willing to believe that an all-loving God created the Philippines and then left them for thousands of years helpless until the islands attracted the attention of European nations."

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OOM PAUL KRUGER

In the Sad Hour When He Left Pretoria He Bore Himself With Calmness and Dignity.

Richard Harding Davis has been giving in correspondence to the Chicago Record some graphic descriptions of the last hours of Oom Paul in Pretoria. He says:

"I called at President Kruger's house a few hours before he left Pretoria for Machadodorp. I was glad I had seen him there. It seemed to be that no man at the moment when he is going into exile from his home and the home also of the government of which he is the chief could have borne himself more calmly, with greater dignity, or with better spirit. The secretary of war had asked me to come to the president's cottage to witness the presentation of a message of sympathy signed by 29,000 Philadelphia school-boys."

After describing the presentation speech of the messenger boy which consisted of two or three sentences only he continues:

"He held out his hand again to Jimmy Smith and Sutherland, the last Americans to shake it before he went out into the mountains, and the audience was at an end."

Three hours later the president and his cabinet were driven rapidly down Church street, across the Lion bridge and over to Sunnyside, where the railroad track to Lorenzo Marques runs just at the end of the gardens. A special train was waiting for him there, and he entered it and arrived at Machadodorp the next morning.

"The townspeople recognized him as he drove in the twilight through the streets of the capital and raised their hats. It was their last tribute. Like Garfield, who came from the towpath of a canal to the white house, Kruger, beginning as the foreteller of his head of an independent republic."

"And now he was seeking shelter in the mountains, not because his own people were weary of his rule or dissatisfied with him, but because his Christian neighbor coveted his land and was murdering the people of his republic to obtain it. His was not a great republic; in the congress of the nations it had no voice. But one day when its independence, its existence even, was threatened it went forth like Goliath before the incredulous eyes of the world and rang its lance full on the shield of the mightiest empire of modern times."

"Now that the lance has been shattered it may be some consolation to the empire to know that she has kept the bargain she made with the money-changers in her temples and that she

has awarded herself not only the gold, but the pound of flesh as well. It must be also some consolation to the old foreteller of his people in his place of exile to remember that for nine months he held that greatest of empires by the throat; that he humiliated, scourged and lashed her, exposing her weakness and wickedness to the world, and left her, in spite of the gold of which she had robbed him, poorer in pocket, poorer in lives and in reputation, last and bankrupt in prestige and honor."

After giving the reasons why he left Pretoria before the arrival of Lord Roberts, Mr. Davis continues as follows:

"For many reasons I am glad. I think chiefly because I should have felt so sorry for Lord Roberts. It was not fair to send an officer and a gentleman, one who deserves so well of the empire, on such an errand. When the British government made up its mind to rob a free and intelligent people of their roof over their heads and the land beneath them it should have left the work to the Chinese police of Hong Kong or to the black Hansas of the gold coast or to the noble, high-bred colonialists as represented by Remington's scouts. It was wrong to sully the record of the Black Witch, Gordons and the guards by using them in such a sorry service. It was rather the work of the public executioners."

"They might at least have allowed them to wear masks. Buller was well chosen. He is just the dull butcher, the fat-witted Falstaff who should properly have been sent to murder and rob an inoffensive and God-fearing people. But Buller was not intelligent. He killed twenty of his own men to one of the enemy, and so they sent Roberts, the cavalier, gallant old Irishman. It was hardly deserved, it was hardly fair, to turn this field marshal into a janissary of the Jews, to ask this great general to serve as the policeman for Cecil Rhodes and to allow the smoking houses which marked his march from Bloemfontein to Pretoria to obscure the glory of that other march from Kabul to Kandahar."

Man Behind the Button.

Let us candidly acknowledge The enormous debt we owe To that patient, plodding toiler, The good man behind the hoe: Let us give due praise and credit To the man behind the plow, But the man behind the button Comes to save the nation now.

Oh, the hero's help is needed When the clouds of war descend, And upon the sturdy toiler, Weighty matters still depend, But how long, O friend and brother, Could our institutions stand If the man behind the button Were not rampant in the land? —EX.

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP

It is a Movement Seeking the Good of all Rather Than the Selfish Interests of the Privileged Few.

The movement for public ownership is government seeking the good of all as against the individual who seeks only his own good. It is a recognition of the fundamental fact that the humblest citizen is entitled to the greatest degree of comfort that associated effort can provide. It is organized love, manifesting itself in service. It is patriotism of the highest and purest type. It is the casting down of idols and the lifting up of ideals. It is dethroning the millionaires and exalting the millions. Happily, we are passing away from the abject worship of mere dollars to a realization of the truth so tersely stated by the simple Nazarine nearly nineteen hundred years ago: "Ye cannot worship God and Mammon." And we are coming to measure men not by their ability to organize industry and use their fellow men simply as profit-making machines, but by their ability to organize industry and serve their fellow-men.

"Municipal ownership is all right with regard to waterworks, but not to street railways," said a learned judge to me recently. If I were a young man that had been trained to a proper respect for the bench, I presume I would have accepted this declaration as final, because of the learning of the judge, but had this judge used his reason instead of accepting the reasoning of some hired man employed by the corporations, he would have known that the same principle applies to both classes of service, and that if it is good for the city to own its own waterworks, it is good that every utility that ministers to all of the people shall be owned in the same way.

The growth of sentiment in favor of public ownership, as seen in this convention of representative men, indicates that the mind of the people is rapidly clarifying on this question. They are beginning to see that no good reason exists why all the people in the city shall say to a few of the people, the lighting company, the waterworks company, the street railway company, "Now all of us will give you (a few of us) the right to get rich off from the rest of us."

The people will learn that they can serve themselves better without profit than a private corporation can serve them with profit as an incentive for their effort.

But the greatest good that we are to find through municipal ownership will be found in the improved quality of our citizenship.

I believe that the great need of the hour is that the people shall be edu-

cated upon this subject of co-operation in social service.

Think of the countless thousands who toil long, weary hours at hard, exhausting labor for a mere pittance, barely enough to keep soul and body together, without hope or ambition. Certainly we cannot look for a very high class of citizenship from this great and ever increasing army.

The little children must be reared from our factories and sweat shops, no less than from the slums and saloons, if they are to grow up to an appreciation of their responsibility as citizens. All the horrors of our present day industrialism must be changed. Patriotic men and women must no longer be willing to live by robbing children of their childhood and young girls of their maidenhood taking their toll in stores and factories at \$2.50 to \$5 a week; and the very fact that the children and young girls may be hidden from our gaze or the profit that we make come to our hands through the thin gauze of a corporation, should never for one moment hide the wrong the quickened social conscience of the man or woman who truly loves his country. I deny the right of any man or woman living by such means to claim to be patriotic. It is true there are thousands whose attention has never been called to this wrong, but those of us who have had our eyes opened to this iniquity are nothing less than participants in the crime unless we cry out against this spoliation of our people for the sake of private profit. When we shall have realized the perfected republic then we shall find the good of the individual only in the good of all.—Mayor Jones.

43 Per Cent Excess

Prof. Frank Parsons notes with special emphasis that "public ownership and government ownership are by no means synonymous. Russia has government ownership of railroads, but there is no public ownership of railroads in Russia because the people do not own the government. Philadelphia has not had real public ownership of gas works because the people do not own the council." At the heart of all our philosophy about the public ownership of monopolies lies the necessity for public ownership of the government. * * * It follows that the merit system of civil service and the initiative and referendum are absolutely necessary to real and complete public ownership.

"The charges of private waterworks in the United States average 43 per cent excess above the charges of public waterworks for similar service."—Conclusion of M. N. Baker in his Manual of American Waterworks, quoted by Professor Parsons.

It is said that Capt. Allen G. Fisher dislikes a certain beverage named coffee.

THE GIANT OF THE EAST

Woe Betide the Nations of the East if They Awake Him From His Slumbers of Sixty Centuries.

Is the giant of the east at last awakening from the sleep of ages? What means the turbulence and disorder that reigns throughout China? What does it portend to the white man? These questions are more serious than any that have ever challenged the attention of man in the civilized nations of the earth.

In round numbers there are five hundred million Chinese and only three hundred and fifty million white men upon the earth. Ten Chinamen can live in comfort and sustain themselves in good working condition, according to their standard, on the amount required to sustain one laborer in Europe. The cost of the sustenance of the poorest peasant of Europe is a princely sum compared with the amount earned and expended by the average laborer in China. The luxury enjoyed by the poorest American laborer is wealth and refinement beyond the dream of the toiler in China.

The Chinese peasant that they were in China two million eight hundred thousand years before Confucius' time. But be this as it may, it is known that the Chinese have been in China, and, according to the best judgment of those who have studied Chinese history, were as numerous six thousand years ago as they are today. The civilizations of Persia, Assyria, Egypt, Greece and Rome appeared upon the earth and disappeared again, while China with her teeming millions remained.

The Chinese of today boastfully look upon their nation as the highest, greatest and the only enduring civilization that man has known. Li Hung Chang recently, in talking with an American about the civilization of the various nations and people, challenged the American to show him a civilization that had lasted six thousand years, and he would then be willing to institute a comparison between such civilization and that of China.

China has been overpopulated from a time when the memory of man runs up to the contrary. With them the condition of life has been one of intense industry. There must needs be food and sustenance provided for an additional human being in order that such being could exist. The condition of life has been so severe that the stern law of the survival of the fittest has ruthlessly destroyed the weak and permitted only the strong to survive. In the struggle for existence only those physically perfect and capable of great endurance stood any chance. Constant application and intense industry being the condition of physical existence, these traits are found developed in the Chinese in a degree that is truly marvelous.

Under the circumstances it is not to be wondered at that the Chinaman stands physiologically at the head of the animal kingdom, presenting the most perfect and symmetrical development in all his parts, and capable of greater endurance and undergoing greater privations and hardships than any other, either man or beast, of his kind, mind, leaving only the old, the infirm, the decrepit and the imperfect who were not fit for war, to propagate their species, the stern law of the survival of the fittest was constantly destroying the weak and permitting only the strongest and fittest in China to survive and propagate. Thus today the Chinese, representing one-third of the human race, are an industrial power such as could not have been created in any other way than it has, and one against which the balance of the world cannot stand when brought into competition upon equal condition.

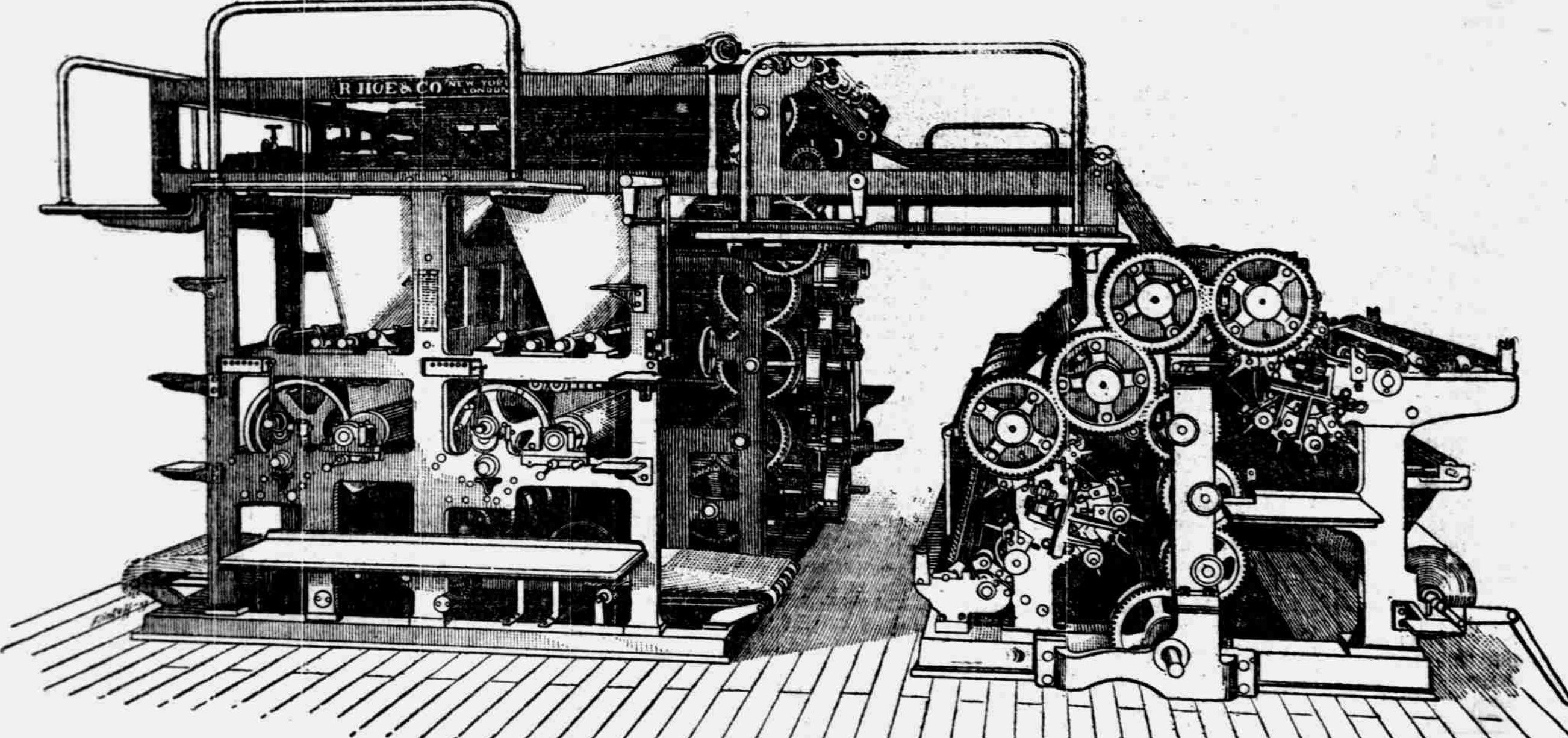
Throughout the ages the ambition of rulers and conquerors hesitated at the gates of China. None were sufficiently reckless to attempt to enter. Napoleon found the French nation upon the apex of civilization and power, and when Frenchmen he sought to conquer the world. His success appeared great for a time, but in the end it was found that he had not conquered the world, but he had destroyed France by killing off its young and sound men. Reflecting upon the cause of his failure, and appreciating the power of numbers, Napoleon after his downfall looked over at China and said: "There is a giant, but she is asleep, and the civilized world should never arouse her."

The suggestion of making a conquest of China never entered the mind of men until it was revealed by the Japanese war that the Chinese lacked the patriotism to defend their country and uphold their rulers. Since then the commercial spirit that dominates the civilized nations has been frenzied with a desire to exploit the resources of the world. Their imaginations picture to them billions to be made in building railroads and factories and introducing modern methods into China.

Every intelligent man in Europe or America well knows that the introduction of railroads, steamships, machinery and the modern industrial system of the civilized nations into China means at no distant day the doom of the civilized nations. It does not require great intelligence to understand that the toilers of America and Europe must read their doom in the search of the whistle of the locomotive, the stationary engine and the hum of the spindle in China. The commercialism that seeks to exploit the celestial empire for a few hundred millions or perhaps a billion of profits surrenders itself to that greed and avarice which in reckless abandon says: "After us the deluge."

An ominous warning comes from

The Machine on which The Nebraska Independent is Printed—Capacity, 48,000 Papers Per Hour—Length 20 feet, Width 18 feet, Height 9 feet, Weight 60,000 Pounds.



THE INDEPENDENT'S GROWTH.

When the fire of September 15, 1899, totally destroyed The Independent plant, its quarters were crowded and its equipment totally inadequate to the economical handling of the rapidly growing circulation and the increasing general business. Just before the fire the management was casting about for ways and means of acquiring more room and facilities, but when the fire was over it was without home or material of any kind beyond its subscription lists.

Immediately following the fire an order was placed for a brand new outfit of type and presses and in a few days the paper was being issued from temporary quarters in the McBride block. There we remained until January 1, 1900, when removal was made to permanent quarters in the magnificent Free Press building at Thirteenth and N streets.

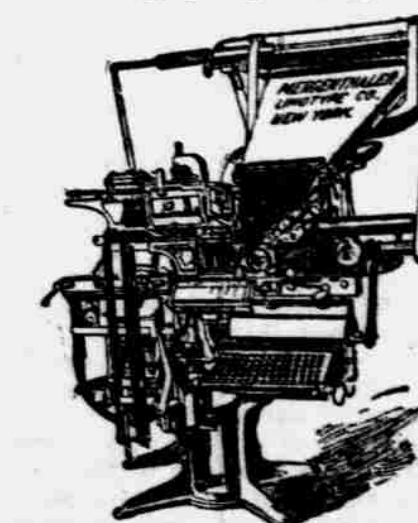
When in the new home, the first move was to add a column to each

page and bring The Independent, in size, up to any dollar weekly paper in the state. Without any noise or brag-gadoo, new features have been added to the paper as fast as they could be accomplished, from that date to this. The mechanical equipment has been constantly added to until today The Independent has as complete a plant for the publication of a weekly newspaper and the production of commercial job printing as there is in the west. These additions have compelled us to take additional room and our quarters are now in the two large rooms at 1241 and 1245 N street, with additional room for presses, paper cutter, stock, etc., upstairs.

The efforts of the management to make a valuable, readable paper have been so successful that The Independent now has the largest circulation of any English weekly paper printed in Nebraska, a fact which we stand ready to demonstrate to anybody who doubts the statement. The growth of our patronage has been so great and so constant that the addition of new departments has been decided upon, some of which are added this week, and in order to do this it became necessary to again increase the printing plant.

With the improvements made in the paper during the last six months our readers are familiar, but with the improvements in the mechanical department very few of them have any knowledge, and so we propose to indulge in a brief description of The Independent printing office as it now stands.

The Newspaper printing office and



THIS INDEPENDENT'S "TYPO." (Capacity 14 Columns per hour.) part of the job office is in the room at

1241 N. and consists of type, cases, racks, stones, furniture, etc., sufficient to set all the matter required for an ordinary eight-page edition of The Independent, together with the job office type, and in addition we have here just installed one of the very latest make of the Mergenthaler Linotype, a machine which sets type as fast as four or five men could by hand. The body of this issue of The Independent is set on this machine and shows the kind of work done by it. The accompanying picture will give an idea of how this wonderful invention looks, far better than any description that could be written of it. It is a great time-saver, but a very expensive piece of machinery and one which is in use by less than a dozen weekly papers in the United States. With it at work The Independent can and will give its readers much more matter and of a greater variety than heretofore.

As early as last January the circulation of The Independent had grown to such proportions that it took two days of steady work on a two-revolution press to print it, and any little accident delayed the prompt mailing of papers. Some new arrangements had to be made and that fact led to our present location where we have the

use of the largest and most rapid printing machine in Nebraska, in fact the finest press in the United States west of Chicago, except its duplicate in San Francisco. This great press, a picture of which is printed herewith, prints from rolls of paper at the rate of 48,000 complete papers an hour, all folded and piled ready for the girls who wrap them for the mail. The circulation can grow as it will, and we can print and mail it promptly, by the use of this great press, until it exceeds the half million mark.

During the week the wrappers are addressed and sorted, and when the papers leave the press they go to the mailing room where about fifty deft-handed young ladies wrap them and throw them into mail sacks so that they are ready to go direct to the first mail train leaving the city, without any handling at the Lincoln postoffice.

Speed and accuracy are demanded on mailing day, and The Independent has accomplished that after some trials and tribulations.

During the state fair many of our subscribers and their friends will be in Lincoln, and we invite them to call at The Independent office, get acquainted and look at the type-setting machine and the great press.